THE

DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named. Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Sue Dirani .

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SUMMER PROJECTS AT THE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library is a partner in two federal/provincial summer student employment projects this summer.

The first project is the Government Information Pilot Project, a project which is funded by Industry Canada and operated with the support of Nova Scotia Provincial Library, the National Library, and Public Works and Government Services Canada. As many librarians know, the federal government is publishing increasing amounts of its material electronically rather than in print. Nova Scotia has been chosen as the test site for this project for the country. Six students and recent graduates have been hired to assess public awareness of federal government information presented on the World Wide Web and to evaluate the public's reaction to federal government information presented in this format. Five of the students will be conducting the study in ten regional librariy sites in Western Counties, South Shore, Halifax Regional, Eastern Counties, and Cape Breton. The findings of this study will be used by the Treasury Board in Ottawa to formulate policies on the Depository Services Program.

Nova Scotia Provincial Library is also a partner with Industry Canada for another project, the Children's Literature and Library Services web site project. Bill Morgan and Mimmo Bonanni have been hired to conceptualize and design a web site focusing on Canadian children's literature, library services, and related topics. The audience for the site will be teachers, librarians, and other professionals who work with children. The major component of this project will be gathering original content, documents that are not currently on-line, to be encoded and placed on the web. The two students will be situated at the Provincial Library until the end of August. Contact Bill or Mimmo if you have any suggestions or content for the site. They can be reached at bmorgan@nshpl.library.ns.ca, dbonanni@nshpl.library.ns.ca, and by phone at 424-2478.

PROVINCE-WIDE LIBRARY CARD

For some time, the vision of having a library card for use throughout the entire public library system in Nova Scotia has been seen as a strong unifying element. The potential of such a card in demonstrating to the public how much cooperation exists between the regional libraries is enormous. In May, the Council of Regional Librarians approved the basic design, and chose the essential information for the back of both the adult and juvenile cards. Subsequently, Barry Donovan of Learning Resource and Technology applied his skills of graphic design to produce a distinctive card which portrays both a strong regional identity and a unifying Nova Scotia theme. The intention is that one bar coded card can be used in all public libraries throughout Nova Scotia while still protecting the privacy of patron information between regions through the use of regional patron databases.

AUTOMATION UPDATE

The progress of automating the regional libraries is rapidly gathering speed, with three of the eight regions outside the Halifax Regional Municipality now actively involved. Crucial to the success of these and the future automation of other regions is the modification of the present union database, Bank 1, which is presently underway at DRA/MultiLIS. It is often said somewhere in an automation project, ...if only we knew then what we know now. NcompasS has been no exception to this trend, and we are fortunate in being able to modify and fine tune system-wide decisions made at the beginning of the project. These are slated for completion in early in September and will allow regional library staff greater control over the production of their statistical reports. The modifications have also been designed to allow regions some flexibility in the design of their Collection Exchange modules according to the needs of their users. Meanwhile, Western Counties Regional Library, the region most affected by the delay caused by the data modifications to Bank 1, has put the time to good use by dumb bar coding its branch library collections. They will soon be commencing registering patrons in their own databank, Bank 5 which is now live.

At the Annapolis Valley Regional Library, the first implementation consultation took place on July 22 and good progress was made. AVRL will be able to transfer all item information from their six year-old Oracle database to the bibliographic records when these are transferred from Bank 1 to their own databank, Bank 6. One major advantage which accompanies this transfer is the ability for AVRL to use smart bar codes for their entire collection. Building their patron database will be a major objective for Annapolis this fall as will be the recon of the last 12,000 bibliographic records by both AVRL and Provincial Library staff, after which Bank 6 will be populated.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is about to commence building the patron database in Bank 7, which contains their own holdings. Fortunately, this is one aspect of automating which can precede the transfer of bibliographic and item records from the union catalogue databank, Bank 1, for any region whose automation grant funding is in place. Colchester-East Hants is another region preparing to commence their patron database.

Finally, upgrading of the software is scheduled for August. The IBM AIX software will be upgraded to 4.2, followed shortly afterwards by a DRA/MultiLIS upgrade to version 11.1. This upgrade is most significant in that it will include both the facility for recognising the years of the twenty first century, and also the long awaited Z39.50 compliant DRA Find/Web. For more information on automation projects, please contact Bridget Turner (bturner@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

TRAINING NEWS

On June 17th and 24th, 23 staff members from the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library visited the Provincial Library for Internet and NcompasS training. The Internet training session consisted of an in-depth look at three key Internet search tools (Yahoo, Lycos, and Point) while the NcompasS session

focused on advanced searching techniques (subject searching and combination searches).

On July 23rd and 24th, Charlotte Janes, Wendy Trimper, and Cathy Chalmers of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library received training in Location Management and Local Policies Management. Training was provided by Dianne Brunelle from DRA/MultiLIS in Montreal and Johanna Cooper. Over the next several weeks, AVRL staff will be working on defining the local policies that will allow them to customize the MultiLIS system to meet the regional library's needs.

On July 26th, six staff members of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library received training, at PARL headquarters, in preparation for building their patron database. PARL staff plan to begin entering patron records in their own database on NcompasS early this fall, once their new province-wide library cards are available. In the meantime, PARL staff will be developing detailed plans for the project. PARL staff also received NcompasS training, in a session that focused on advanced search techniques and included a hands-on exercise. Please contact Johanna Cooper (jcooper@nshpl.library.ns.ca) for more information on training.

CANADIAN UNION CATALOGUE AT CLA

The Canadian Union Catalogue, in its future virtual or distributed form, received considerable attention in the annual resource sharing meeting called by the National Librarian, Marianne Scott at the CLA conference in Halifax in June. Jane Beaumont, of Beaumont and Associates, presented a progress report on the recent developments to the Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue project. This project is built on maximizing the advantages of the Z39.50 search protocol which is now widely available from major vendors of library software. As libraries implement this software over the next several months, the National Library will move into the next phase of the Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue, that of coordinating some pilot projects. Nova Scotia is well placed to play a major role in this initiative as the majority of the provinces' library holdings are to be found on just three core catalogues - Novanet, Halifax Regional Library and NcompasS. All these will shortly be Z39.50 compliant making Nova Scotia a likely participant in the pilot. Under present budgetary restraints, the National Library has decided to focus AMICUS' activities primarily to include Serials, a union catalogue of alternate formats and of federal departmental libraries' catalogues. It has been recommended that services to Persons with Disabilities will also be focussed on supporting the access and use of online products, but that CANUC: H microfiche will be discontinued and CANWIP will be integrated with the CIP program.

Copies of the report "Access to the holdings of NS Libraries" may be obtained from Debbie Ross at 424-2457 or at rossdl@gov.ns.ca.

PUBLIC ACCESS E-MAIL PROJECT

The Nova Scotia Federation of Community Nets (NSFCN) and the Chebucto Community Net (CCN) are joint sponsors of the Public Access E-Mail Project. The Chebucto Community Net has agreed to provide access to e-mail for Nova Scotia residents via the public access terminals that are located throughout the

province in public libraries and on community college campuses. There is no charge for this service but users are encouraged to pay what they can and become members of the Chebucto Community Net Society, thereby helping to offset the cost of operating this community service. As local community nets are able to do so, they will be encouraged to take over responsibility for providing e-mail access for public access terminal users in their area.

A project team, which includes representatives from NSFCN, CCN, the Provincial Library, and the regional libraries, has been laying the groundwork for implementing public access to e-mail in public libraries throughout the province. The team is currently putting the finishing touches on a comprehensive package developed to facilitate implementation of public access to e-mail and to help front line staff of the regional libraries to acquire the skills they will need to assist the public in the use of e-mail. The core of the package consists of a train-the-trainer session for library staff and basic guides that will be useful to staff and users alike. It is intended that designated library staff from each region attend a train-the-trainer session and, in turn, train other staff in their regions. Guides to help users get their own accounts and learn the basics of e-mail will be supplied in print format and on floppy disc, and will also be available on the Provincial Library web site. This will enable each region to easily customize the guides to suit their particular needs, should they wish to do so. Supplementary resources that complete the project package include public e-mail icons that can be loaded on public access terminals and advanced e-mail documentation that will be available on the Provincial Library web site. Plans for the first train-the-trainer session, to be held in late August or early September, will be finalized shortly. For those regions not yet ready to implement public access to e-mail, a second training session will follow, likely in early October. For more information about this project, contact Johanna Cooper (jcooper@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

SCHOOL LIBRARIES COORDINATOR JUMPS IN!

Carol-Ann Belisle, Coordinator School Libraries, has jumped into the pool at the Provincial Library. She's wearing her life jacket, but welcomes any rescue techniques you can offer to keep her afloat. Much work lies ahead. The position has been vacant for three years, during which time "educational restructuring and union negotiations" affected school library staffing, such that whole school boards returned teacher-librarians to the classroom, leaving many school libraries with no professional direction or support.

Carol-Ann is presently editing an information literacy document which she hopes to see published as a curriculum document this fall. Plans are also underway for a school library homepage, as well as a brochure to distribute to schools and school boards, public libraries and their boards, Dept. of Education and Culture divisions, and outside agencies.

The mandate for the position is daunting - coordination and consultation on school library services and development, promotion of information literacy and resource sharing, and the provision of access to electronic information. To this end, Carol-Ann presented two workshops in July to Nova Scotia science teachers participating in the junior high school SciencePlus Summer Institute. The sessions dealt with

making curriculum connections through the Internet, guiding student searching, and processing the information found graphically. This was a great introduction to information literacy for this group of teachers. Carol-Ann invites your suggestions, concerns, or questions. Please do not hesitate to contact her at 424-4253 or at cbelisle@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

CATALOGUE MERGE AT HRL

Since December of 1994, staff from the former Halifax City, Halifax County and Dartmouth regional library systems have been preparing for the merge of their separate systems into the new Halifax Regional Library as an adjunct to municipal amalgamation. The actual merge of the libraries' separate databases was in the planning stages for many months with much preliminary work taking place throughout this time.

Dynix Library Systems were awarded the contract to actually carry out the necessary data conversion and merge of not only the bibliographic information, but also the related holdings, patron, circulation, serials and acquisitions functions associated with an integrated library system. While both the former Halifax City and Dartmouth regional libraries were already utilizing Dynix software, the former Halifax County's bibliographic and holdings data was housed with the Provincial Library's DRA/MultiLIS library system, NcompasS. With the aid of the newly amalgamated Halifax Regional library's staff, the Dynix conversion team's challenge was to successfully merge the three separate databases without causing undue interruption to patron service. During this process, all 13 branches of the new Halifax Regional Library remained open for business as usual, with the exception of short periods of closure for former County branches as they bar coded their collections.

Needless to say, glitches and roadblocks were encountered along the way! First, Dartmouth's older release of Dynix had to be brought up to speed to match Halifax City's newer version. Then both of these databases were upgraded to an even later release of Dynix and subsequently merged. Lastly, the County's MultiLIS data was converted and merged into the final product. What sounds straightforward on paper, after the fact, actually involved many people and many hours of dedicated work on part of both Dynix and HRL staff. At this point the staff are pleased to be able to serve the entire Halifax Regional Municipality with one integrated library system from 13 branches, 3 bookmobiles and a books-by-mail service. There is no doubt that all the effort has been worth it and library service in the new Municipality has been greatly enhanced. As all staff become more familiar with the Dynix system, and the benefits of automation in general, service to the patrons (from Hubbards to Sheet Harbour!) will only be further enhanced. -- Kathleen Prentiss, Halifax Regional Library.

STAFFING NOTES

In the staffing department, there are a number of changes to report. First, as many of you may already know, Andrea John, Coordinator of User Services, will be on leave until the end of August. The Provincial Library was fortunate, however, to have found a short term replacement in the form of Natalie MacPherson. Natalie is the Director of Public Services for the Stratford Public Library after

having served as Coordinator of Information Services. She is a former Coordinator of Information Services for the Thunder Bay Public Library and the Bookmobile/Books by Mail Librarian for the former Halifax County Regional Library. She will be working with regional libraries on their goals and objectives and on the strategic planning initiative. She will also complete the new combined annual report of activities for the regional libraries and the Provincial Library and she will work with User Services staff to discuss their goals and objectives. Welcome aboard, Natalie!

Gayle Ford, of Technical Services, will be leaving us shortly to move into her new position with Learning Resources and Technology. Gayle will be cataloguing non-print materials in the LRT library and, while her expertise will be sorely missed by the Technical Services section, we know that she will enjoy great success in her new job.

Also waving goodbye is Beth Shields of Technical Services and Loretta Young of Technical Services. Beth has decided to pursue her educational goals and will be heading for Trent University in the fall. She will be greatly missed by the Technical Services section. Best of luck to her in her pursuits! Loretta is leaving us on August 2 and we would like to thank her for all of the hard work she has done in cataloguing. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Lastly, Mary Fellows-O'Handley, of the Administration division, has left us early in anticipation of the birth of her second child expected in August. Mary is expected to return to work in February, 1997.

LINKed

This month, I thought I'd go with a theme (and, no, it's not the Olympic$; and, yes, that is a dollar sign). If you know of any interesting sites to include or if you would like to suggest a theme for future columns, e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca). Hobbies, you say?

The Autograph Collectors Database
http://cscmosaic.albany.edu/~ss4569/autograph.html
- Resources for people who collect celebrity autographs. Includes the FAQ for the newsgroup alt. collecting.autographs and a listing of addresses.

The Canadian Online Bottle Collector
http://www.netaccess.on.ca/~mhall/
- A collection of Web pages about bottle collecting.

Coin Universe
http://www.coin-universe.com/
They say "Collector's Coin Universe exists to provide a home base to coin collectors, dealers, and those who are just interested in coins. Our objective is to bring together a complete set of resources for existing collectors, and to introduce the enjoyment of numismatics to a whole new universe".

LEGO FAQ
http://legowww.homepages.com/faq/FAQ.html
This is the FAQ list for the newsgroup rec.toys.lego, devoted to LEGO Brand bricks and toys. Among its many entries are How to wash LEGOs and How to Take the Darn Things Apart.

Wonderful World of Barbie
http://deepthought.armory.com/~zenugirl/barbie.html
Information on Barbie dolls, mainly for collectors. Contains a Glossary of Barbie Related Collectors Terms (such as TNT - Twist 'N Turn waist), a Price Guide, and several other links. -- Sue Dirani

WHERE WE FOUND IT

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. Where can I get a list of movies made by the Walt Disney Studios?

A. What seems to be a complete list of movies made by Walt Disney Studios was found on the Internet Movie Database at http://us.imdb.com/list.html. The search screen at this address allows the user to enter the name of a production company among other search options. The result is a list of 752 movies made by Disney along with the year of production.

Q. Did Paul Coffey, who plays for the Detroit Red Wings, score a goal on February 13, 1996?

A. There are a ton of sports related sites on the Internet so it was easier to start with the YAHOO subject index at http://www.yahoo.com/. Here all known web sites are categorized by subject. Click on the subject called Recreation and Sports and then enter "hockey" in the search field provided. After this, click as follows: RecreationSportsHockey - Ice Hockey - NHL - Teams - Detroit Red Wings - Detroit Red Wings [FOX Sports]. The Detroit Red Wings [FOX Sports] page has "The Game Log" which lists all games played by game number and date, so the answer was found by simply scrolling down the list until the game played on that date was found. It indicated that Paul Coffey did, indeed, score one goal in that game. -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two books dealing with aspects of public librarianship are featured. Items found in this column can be obtained from the Provincial Library's Professional Collection through regular ILL channels.

1) Hafner, Arthur W. - Democracy and the Public Library: Essays on Fundamental Issues. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1993. (Call# Prof. 027 .473 Dem)

- The purpose of this book, according to the author, is to show the relevance of the debates concerning the public library's democratic mission, the great books of the world, and the library's legal status to the pragmatic decisions which librarians are called upon to make every day. The author states that all of these important issues inform even the smallest daily decisions that librarians make and recognizing this connection, can help make those decisions more consistent and the business of librarianship more satisfying.

2) Williams, Lorraine M. - The Library Trustee and the Public Librarian: Partners in Service. Metchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1993. (Call# Prof. 021 .8 Wil)

- In this book, the author draws upon her extensive experience as a library trustee to provide an in depth examination of the nature of trusteeship and the rationale upon which it rests. Williams looks at the important relationship between the library board and the library director. There are 13 chapters dealing with everything from the origin of the public library to such issues as intellectual freedom, lobbying for funding and public relations. -- Frank Oram

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